

D1579/mhca

26 November 2001

Geoff Dick  
Wellington Regional Council  
PO Box 11 646  
WELLINGTON

Dear Geoff,

### Findlay Street Stream Works

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October 2001 and the discussions held with Council officers to outline the details of the proposals.

The two major options for the enlarging of this length of Porirua Stream in the Street area are the "full realignment" option where the stream is straightened and the recently proposed "floodway" option where the existing alignment remains but is widened on one side.

The full realignment option is considered by this Council's officers to be the least desirable of these two options as it would result in a greater impact on the environment without a demonstrated increase in flood protection. It is considered to be inconsistent with the wider biodiversity and stream protection goals of both Councils.

The floodway option has a lesser impact on the environment without compromising the flood protection benefits. While this option results in marginally higher costs, the wider benefits are consistent with Wellington City Council's recently completed Bush and Streams Regeneration Plan and Wellington Regional Council's Riparian Strategy and biodiversity goals. It is also consistent with earlier work undertaken some years undertaken for Wellington Regional Council that looked at a natural system approach to various stretches of the Porirua Stream. It is understood that wider benefits and costs associated with the retention or modification of the natural character of the stream were not factored into the analysis of the proposed works carried out earlier this year. It is accepted that parts of the stream have been highly modified in the past. However, retention of natural character where possible is a valid goal for the remaining system and is consistent with the long term aims of both Councils.

Wellington City Council would be prepared to explore undertaking on-going maintenance (mowing) of the area in conjunction with the adjacent park.

Council officers support the floodway option and would be opposed to the full realignment. However we are discussing the proposal with the Chair of the Tawa Community Board and will provide a follow up letter if required.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



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